UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/24447
14 August 1992
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

LETTER DATED 14 AUGUST 1992 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of certain events which took place during July 1992, demonstrating that terrorist activities against the Republic of Cuba, promoted, encouraged and tolerated by the authorities of the United States of America, are still going on. Such activities were the object of the meeting of the Security Council held on 21 May 1992 at the request of my country.

On 4 July 1992, Cuban territorial waters were violated once again by a vessel carrying four armed persons intending to perpetrate terrorist acts against the Republic of Cuba. The members of this infiltration team had started from United States territory and belong to the so-called "Comandos L" organization, which operates from the territory of the United States and has conducted, openly and admittedly, a number of similar actions against Cuba, including one carried out on 29 December 1991, the perpetrators of which were apprehended and brought to justice by the authorities of the Republic of Cuba.

On the occasion in question, while the reported criminal act was being committed, an event took place to which we should like to draw particular attention. The vessel concerned, while still in Cuban waters, found itself in difficulties and requested the assistance of the United States Coast Guard. A Coast Guard unit entered the territory of the Republic of Cuba on the pretext of rendering assistance to a vessel in distress, rescued the members of the terrorist gang in question and took them, together with the damaged vessel, to United States territory. There they were set free despite the discovery on board the rescued vessel of military weapons, as a spokesman for the United States Government Customs Service acknowledged, and the fact that the leaders of the terrorist organization in question publicly claimed responsibility for the action as one of the many which they attempt to perpetrate against Cuba.

Attention should be drawn to the suspicious fact that the United States Coast Guard only informed the Cuban border guard since that it was entering Cuban territorial waters to carry out a rescue operation - an incursion which of course was undertaken without obtaining prior authorization from the

appropriate authorities of the Republic of Cuba - more than two hours after the operation had been concluded and that, to date, the request for information submitted by the Cuban authorities has gone unanswered.

We should point out that the Government of the Republic of Cuba has provided the Government of the United States with all the information available to it concerning this event. To that end, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba transmitted a note on the matter on 21 July 1992 to the United States Interests Section in the Embassy of Switzerland in Havana, but this note to date has had no effect on the attitude of the United States authorities. We therefore feel obliged to bring this new event to the attention of the international community through the Security Council, which has already considered this matter on 21 May 1992, in view of the serious consequences which could result from its recurrence.

This conduct by the Government of the United States flagrantly contradicts, inter alia, the declarations made by the Permanent Representative of the United States at the Security Council meeting held on 21 May 1992 at Cuba's request with the specific purpose of examining this type of terrorist activity against Cuba and other hostile activities by the Government of the United States (S/PV.3080). On that occasion, the representative of the United States said:

> "My Government neither supports nor condones preparations in the United States for the violent overthrow of the Government of Cuba, nor efforts from the United States to foment violence in Cuba. Any suggestions that the Government of the United States sponsors such activities are untruthful and unacceptable.
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> "The Government of the United States will uphold the law with regard to those who attempt to violate its statutes. United States legislation, including the Neutrality Act, expressly forbids the participation in any military or naval expedition or enterprise to be carried out against a foreign nation from United States territory."

This notwithstanding, the Government of the United States has taken no measures against the terrorist gang which was rescued by its own Coast Guard Service in Cuban waters. On the contrary, these persons have received refuge, protection and sanctuary in the territory of the United States.

It should be noted that the head of this gang which illegally entered Cuban territorial waters with a view to perpetrating terrorist acts against Cuba, the United States citizen Tony Bryant, now enjoying impunity for those acts in the territory of the United States, had formerly been tried and imprisoned in my country for hijacking a United States aircraft, thus imperilling the life of the passengers and crew, also United States citizens, and making it fly to Cuba. The terrorist Bryant, according to news agency reports from Miami, described this latest episode as a success because, for the first time since the Bay of Pigs fiasco, the United States authorities violated Cuban territorial integrity to render assistance in an incursion of this kind.

Clearly, as this event once again demonstrates, the groups which are involved, with impunity, in these illegal activities not only operate from the territory of the United States but do so quite openly and with the full knowledge of the United States authorities, undergoing military training in the territory of the United States, carrying military weapons in public places and issuing frequent press statements about the commission and planning of their criminal acts.

There can be no doubt that the Government of the United States, through its conduct on this occasion and on previous occasions, has violated the most fundamental norms of law and of the coexistence of nations, including the obligations incumbent on it under Security Council resolution 748 (1992), adopted on 31 March 1992, which reaffirms that "every State has the duty to refrain from organizing, instigating, assisting or participating in terrorist acts in another State or acquiescing in organized activities within its territory directed towards the commission of such acts, when such acts involve a threat or use of force".

I should be grateful if you could make the necessary arrangements for this letter to be published and distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Carlos ZAMORA RODRIGUEZ
Acting Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary a.i.